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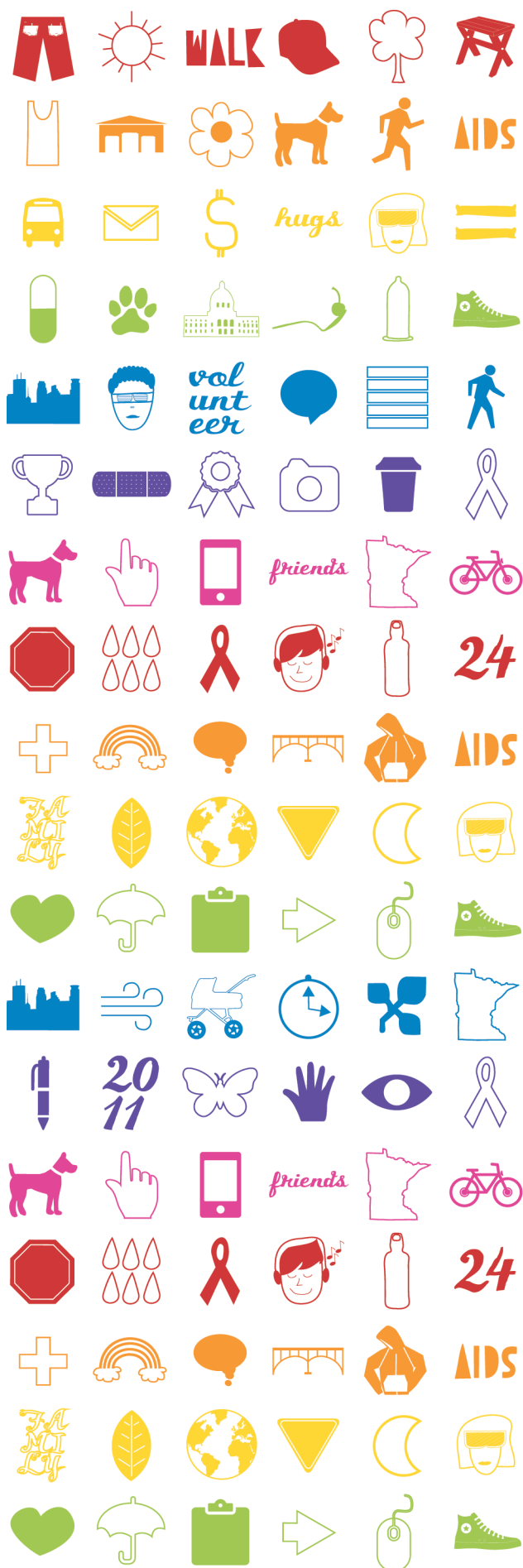
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# 2011

## Minnesota

# AIDS

# Walk

## Sunday

## May 15

We've added a mini health fair to our 24th annual AIDS Walk - including HIV testing in Minnehaha Park for the very first time.



We've also partnered with Rock the Cause to provide a full afternoon of celebrating a successful Walk. Join the Walk crowd at 11 a.m., and then stick around for a fun concert in the Pavillion at 12:30. It's all ages and free!

Check out the acts that will be performing this year:

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### Schedule for the Day

- 9:00 a.m. Run for the Ribbon
- 10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies
- 11:00 a.m. 24th Annual Minnesota AIDS Walk
- 12:30 p.m. Post-Walk Celebration Concert

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# LAVENDER®

MAY 5-18, 2011 | ISSUE 416 | SUMMER TRAVEL

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## Correction

In the article "Wilde Roast Café Will Move to Riverplace," *Lavender*, April 21, the new address is 65 Main Street Southeast, Minneapolis.

## ON THE COVER

Nathan Johnson at 2010 Pine City Pride Festival.  
Photo by Paul Wilkens



Photo by David Byrd

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Photo Courtesy of Guthrie Theater



Painting Courtesy of André Salvadore

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Photo Courtesy of the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau

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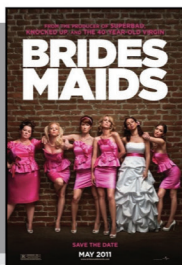
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## Reach Out and Touch Someone

TYLER CLEMENTI'S ROOMMATE, Dharu Ravi, whose webcam intrusion into Clementi's private life precipitated his suicide, recently was indicted by a grand jury on 15 counts, including a hate crime, which carries five to ten years in prison.

I also read that Justine Williams, a 14-year-old cancer survivor, had been receiving threats online from an anonymous tormentor who turned out to be her best friend.

Often, the perpetrator—the article on Williams scrupulously avoided any word indicating gender—Skyped with her, while sadistically watching her reactions to the threats typed through a different source.

Hate, sex, race, religion—nearly anything—may be a factor in bullying, but in my opinion, the biggest motivator for this kind of potentially-lethal activity is power.

Ravi may or may not have hated gays, but he certainly knew his victim's most vulnerable spot, and exploited it. Clementi, a shy young man and talented musician, was out to his parents, but having his intimate life made public fodder for his classmates and the rest of the world was unbearable.

These days, one is not supposed to use the “N” word in compari-

sons—and by “N,” I mean “Nazi,” not the other—but, scale aside, I believe the comparison is valid.

Both then and now, a mechanism in place allows predators tremendous, unlimited power over their chosen victim—the ability to inflict damage with no consequences or personal responsibility for the resulting physical and emotional wreckage.

The possession of power, the ability of affecting another's life in a God-like, unrestrained way, seems to act as an aphrodisiac today as in the past, creating a legion of sociopaths—which I define as individuals incapable of seeing other people as human beings, but only as pawns in a game in which these abhorrent persons make the rules.

Perhaps greater than whatever part hate played in these two examples, the indifference of the perpetrators to the feelings of their victims, along with their absence of empathy and their inability to put themselves in another's place, are indicative of a frightening and growing Internet trend.

As the “reach-out-and-touch-someone-with-impunity” model replaces the “don't-do-to-others-what-you-would-not-have-done-to-yourself” ethic, more such cases will continue. □

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# Peep Show

DON'T YOU JUST hate it when you're planning a birthday party, only to find out someone has gone behind your back, and scheduled something the very same weekend?

This puts your guests in the position of having to choose which party to go to, or forces them to try to squeeze everything into their schedule. It's a hostess's worst nightmare—that, and running out of meatballs.

Well, it happened to me this year—and not just once. In fact, three different people tried to steal my birthday-weekend thunder.

Just who were these insensitive frivolity-snatchers, you ask? Jesus; the Easter Bunny; and my friend, Brian.

In their defense, Jesus and the Easter Bunny have done this only one other time in my 36 years on the planet.

Brian graciously offered to let me reschedule my party...friends, you know. Then, we realized any overlapping friends could do both parties relatively easily, without offending either of us gracious hostesses.

As for Jesus and the Easter Bunny, I decided to incorporate them

into the theme of the party—actually, just the Easter Bunny. A candy-carrying bunny is way easier to riff off of than the Messiah—and less offensive.

To that end, I made the party's theme one of my favorite Easter candies: the beloved Peep. The party was covered in those squishy, neon-colored little guys.

My talented cake-making friend, Susan, even created a giant Peep-shaped cake. We had a Peep art contest, with people making all sorts of Peeptacular edible arts and crafts, including Peep smores, Peep hats, and even Peep sushi.

The hands-down winner of the night (other than Susan's cake) was an amazing portrait of yours truly made entirely out of Peeps by my good friend, Andy. Have you ever seen a drag queen crafted out of nothing but Peeps? I think not. Andy's a real Peepcasso.

In addition to all the fabulous Peeps and peeps that made the night special, the party proved beyond a doubt that old adage: If you can't beat 'em, Peep 'em. ■

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## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

by George Holdgrafer

HAPPY 42ND  
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Koreen Phelps. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

MAY 18 MARKS the 42th anniversary of the founding of Fight Repression of Erotic Expression (FREE), Minnesota's first gay organization. Courageous young activists, Koreen Phelps was 20 and Stephen Ihrig was 21 when they established FREE. Phelps passed away in 2007. Ihrig at last report lived in New York City, where he moved in the early 1970s.

Many are under the misconception that the Stonewall Riot in New York City on June 28, 1969, took place, and then, presto, organizing followed in other parts of the country, inspired by that event. Note, however, that FREE was founded nearly six weeks *before* Stonewall, a credit to the moxie of Minnesota gay activists. ■



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# GLIMPSES

by George Holdgrafer



1

## All God's Children MCC After St. Patty's Day Bingo Benefits Church

**On March 19**, After St. Patty's Day Bingo took place at All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis, preceded by a corned beef and cabbage dinner. The quarterly event raises money for the church, with the next one happening June 25-26 at the Twin Cities Pride Festival.

Photo by Sophia Hantzes



2

## The Aliveness Project Positive Impact Capital Campaign Holds Fundraiser

**A fundraiser** for The Aliveness Project Positive Impact Capital Campaign took place at Joe's Garage in Minneapolis on March 23. The \$2.25 million campaign is raising money to pay for purchase and renovation of the organization's future home at 3808 Nicollet Avenue in South Minneapolis, just a few blocks from its current building.

The Aliveness Project Positive Impact Campaign Cochairs Karl Cambronne (left) and Minneapolis Council Member Elizabeth Glidden. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



3

## Bright and Matusevich Host Project 515 Spring Fundraiser

**On March 30**, Jason Bright and Alex Matusevich hosted the Project 515 Spring Fundraiser at their home in Minneapolis. Launched in 2007, the organization is a 501(c)(4) focused initiative with a specific, achievable goal: to ensure that same-sex couples and their families have equal rights and considerations under Minnesota law.

(From left) Jason Bright, Project 515 Executive Director Ann Kaner-Roth, and Alex Matusevich. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



4

## Minnesota Lynx Select Moore and Harris

**The Minnesota** Lynx recently selected Maya Moore and Amber Harris. Moore, a forward, had a storied career at the University of Connecticut. Harris played for Xavier University in Ohio. The Lynx hit the court for the first time this year in a preseason game on May 24, with the regular season opening on June 5.

Maya Moore (left) and Amber Harris. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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# JOURNEY WITH **PRIDE** IN THE REGION

With gas prices soaring into the stratosphere, why not plan a few close-to-home trips this summer? A number of Pride events are an easy drive from the Twin Cities, so split the gas costs with a few friends, and venture forth!

## **EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA PRIDE**

**Pine City  
June 5**



Photo by Paul Wilkens

East Central Minnesota Pride, which launched on June 5, 2005, has been held ever since on the first Sunday in June in Pine City.

According to Nate Johnson, author of *Images of America: Pine City*, who has been with Pine City Pride since its inception, says, “The event continues to grow. In its first year, it was predominantly a men’s gathering, but following events were opened up to all members of the GLBT community.

“Over the past few years, there have been

dozens of new vendors and several hundred people present. More and more, people are realizing the importance of Pride in Outstate Minnesota. In the big cities, there isn’t the isolation or the feeling of being second-class. Pride is the time that the GLBT people in these small towns can gather together, and, in doing so, feel included and respected.”

Paul Wilkens, a member of the 11-year old East Central Men’s Circle discussion group for gay, bi, and questioning men, adds, “I feel that the value of Pride has a deeper impact in rural Minnesota than it has in bigger cities, because we’re less tolerated. If one loses the meaning behind Pride, I’d encourage them to visit one of these rural Prides to understand their value.”

Johnson notes, “Despite progress, some of the GLBT community is still afraid to come out, and perhaps be ‘outed’ at this event. However, the overwhelming view of the East Central Minnesota GLBT community is that the event brings added value to their rural living experience.”

Many attending Twin Citians have ties with Pine City, as Johnson recalls: “Last year, I met a past graduate of Pine City High School who had relocated to the Twin Cities. He expressed he was delighted that gay life was beginning to take hold in Greater Minnesota, where he once felt he could never be open.”

For more information, search for “East Central Minnesota Pride” on Facebook.

## **PRIDEFEST**

**Milwaukee  
June 10-12**



Photo Courtesy of PrideFest

Milwaukee PrideFest Communications Director Kate Sherry explains, “When PrideFest first began in 1987, it was much smaller, and low-key—more like a picnic—





Photo by David Byrd

attracting hundreds of mostly local attendees. Now, we see more than 30,000 people from all over the world come through the festival gates all weekend. And the fact that we are a three-day Pride festival, on permanent festival grounds, is a pretty big accomplishment."

#### Highlights?

Sherry points out, "Outside of our amazing headliners? We have the volleyball tournament, as well as an expanded Health and Wellness Area. And those who think our Pump! Dance Pavilion couldn't get any better than last year are in for a big surprise. PrideFest Milwaukee is definitely one of the top Pride celebrations in the nation, and becoming an LGBT travel destination."

"We have hotel deals that include a weekend pass, and Amtrak is offering a discount to get here. So, take the train, and spend all weekend

celebrating with us. The shuttle will take you to and from our sponsor hotel, so you're all set. Milwaukee is a great town, and PrideFest weekend is always one you will never forget."

For more information, visit [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com).

## CAPITAL CITY PRIDE

**Des Moines**  
**June 10-13**

Capital City Pride is now in its third year.

Festival President Justin DeVries relates, "Pride was a one-day event that was held at Simon Estes with 6,000 people. We are currently a two-to three-day event with a four-block radius in Historic East Village. We had 15,000 people last year. There are usually some people from the Twin Cities that come down. We

have had a great response from both the GLBT and non-GLBT communities since I have been involved.

"I am the most proud of the fact that we have grown our Pride so much in the last three years. We are finally getting Pride to where it should be in Des Moines. We still can get bigger, but from where we were at four years ago, we have really grown, and people are really talking about it. Our entertainment for this year is The Village People."

A number of events are lined up, including the Third Annual Pride Volleyball Tournament at Sands (date to be determined); the Pride Scavenger Hunt (June 10); the Street Party (June 11); the Pancake Breakfast, Parade, and PrideFest (June 12); and Gay Day at Adventureland (June 13).

For more information, visit [www.capitalcitypride.org](http://www.capitalcitypride.org). □

### REGIONAL PRIDE EVENTS

#### Iowa

Davenport  
June 4  
Cedar Rapids  
June 4  
Iowa City  
June 18

#### Minnesota

Twin Cities  
June 25-26  
Rochester  
July 15-18  
Duluth-Superior  
Sept. 1-4  
Mankato  
Sept. 9-10  
St. Cloud  
Sept. 23-25

#### North Dakota

Bismarck-Mandan  
July 21-24  
Fargo-Moorhead  
Aug. 11-14

#### Wisconsin

Madison  
Aug. 20-21  
La Crosse  
Aug. 27



# MINNESOTA AIDS WALK PREMIERES NEW ACTIVITIES

WITH HIV-INFECTION RATES ON THE RISE, THE ANNUAL EVENT IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN EVER.

THOUSANDS WILL STROLL through Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis on May 15 for the largest HIV/AIDS fundraiser in Minnesota, the 24th-annual Minnesota AIDS Walk, organized by the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP).

The agency is hosting the event to garner financial support, with more than 5,000 walkers and runners expected to participate. HIV testing will premiere this year, along with a health fair and a concert.

The Minnesota AIDS Walk is a day to raise cash for the cause, according to MAP Director of Development Robert Bitzan. Money taken in will go toward critical services to care for those at risk of or living with HIV/AIDS, as well as funding advocacy efforts and programs on preventing infection.

Sponsored by ING, the walk will be a venue to do outreach and educate Minnesotans, ultimately to stop HIV from spreading.

As part of the health fair, HIV screenings will be available in RVs set up around the park. Staff and volunteers from Walgreens Corporate, AMC The Doctors (a clinic in Uptown Minneapolis), and Rainbow Health Initiative will help run it.

Bitzan explained, "We are very excited about [the health fair]. We want to be able to keep HIV education and prevention in the forefront of people's thoughts."

The Minnesota AIDS Walk, which began in 1988, remains important, as HIV infections in Minnesota continue to rise.

A spike of HIV infections among men in their early 20s took place in 2009, according to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), which Bitzan said illustrates how



2010 Minnesota AIDS Walk. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

vital prevention efforts remain.

Bitzan noted, "We're still fighting this battle. I would love nothing more than to pack up our tents, and go fight something else."

As this issue went to press, new MDH data on rates of HIV infections were to be released on April 26. Bitzan observed that if rates leveled off or decreased in the past

year, it means prevention efforts are working.

Bitzan mused that it is difficult to see young people infected with HIV, and to anticipate challenges they will face in their life. He commented that it would be great if MAP and the walk could do something to stop that from happening to others.

As Bitzan emphasized, "That's why we are here. Every year."

MAP partnered with Rock the Cause to create an event that will be both informative and fun, while raising awareness that HIV is, as Bitzan puts it, "incredibly problematic in the Twin Cities LGBT community."

Rock the Cause will put on an all-ages concert to celebrate and have some fun after the walk. The lineup includes Not Like This, Alison Scott, The Alarmists, and Far From Falling, all Twin Cities-based artists.

Bitzan remarked, "It's going to be a fun afternoon. I just hope Mother Nature cooperates."

The day begins at 9 AM with a four-mile Run for the Ribbon. Representatives from the Positive Leaders Program, who are HIV-positive people involved with policy and advocacy, will be featured in a ceremony after the run. The walk starts at 11 AM.

For more information, visit <[www.mnaidswalk.org](http://www.mnaidswalk.org)>. ■



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### US Majority Supports Same-Sex Marriage

A new CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll shows that 51 percent of Americans now believe same-sex marriage should be legalized with the same rights granted to heterosexuals. However, 47 percent said they think such marriages shouldn't be recognized.

### Gay Teens Less Likely To Attempt Suicide When in Supportive Communities

According to *Slate*, a new study published in the journal *Pediatrics* finds gay and bisexual teens are 25 percent less likely to attempt suicide in socially-supportive environments. The study, which surveyed 32,000 Oregon high school students, found that supportive communities include

a higher proportion of same-sex couples and Democrats.

### California Senate Passes Bill Mandating Gay History

The Associated Press reports that the California Senate has approved a bill requiring the state's public schools to include gay history in social studies lessons. The legislation, which now goes to the California Assembly, would allow local school districts to decide when and what to include in the lessons.

### Roommate Faces Hate-Crime Charges in Rutgers Case

According to *The New York Times*, a New Jersey grand jury indicted 19-year-old Dharun Ravi on hate-crime charges for allegedly using a webcam to stream his college roommate having sex

with another man. Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers University, killed himself just days later. Ravi also was charged with a cover-up for allegedly removing a Twitter post about the incident.

### Facebook Apologizes for Censoring Gay Kiss Photo

*The Huffington Post* reports that Facebook has apologized for removing a photograph of two men kissing for allegedly violating the company's terms-of-use agreement prohibiting pornographic content. The photograph was posted on a Facebook page calling for a same-sex kiss-in to protest a gay couple that was thrown out of a bar for allegedly kissing.

### "Effeminate" Boys in Malaysia Sent to "Antigay" Camp

### Camp

According to the BBC, 66 Muslim schoolboys in Malaysia considered "effeminate" by their teachers have been sent to a camp designed to teach them about masculine behavior. A government official said the camp was meant to move the boys back "to a proper path in life." Officials also claimed that if the matter wasn't dealt with, the boys could end up gay or transsexual.

### House Republicans Paying \$500,000 To Defend DOMA

*The Huffington Post* reports that House Republicans, led by Speaker John Boehner, plan to pay a legal firm as much as \$500,000 in taxpayer funds to defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in court. They voted in March to initiate a defense of DOMA after the Obama Administration announced it no longer would defend key provisions of the legislation in court.

### Kobe Bryant Fined \$100,000 for Gay Slur

According to CBS, professional basketball player Kobe Bryant has been fined \$100K by the NBA for yelling an antigay slur at a referee. Claiming his comments were not meant to offend, he said, "The words expressed do *not* reflect my feelings towards the gay and lesbian communities, and were *not* meant to offend anyone."



### White House Bars Gay Groups from Military Families Event

— CBS reports that in April, the Obama Administration barred gays and lesbians from a White House event with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, to "support and honor America's service members and their families." Servicemembers United said civilian representatives of gay and lesbian military families were banned from the event. Kristina Schake, Communications Director for the First Lady, told reporters in an e-mail, "The President has been crystal clear that the Administration is moving forward with the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell quickly and efficiently. However, it still remains the law." □



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# STD RATES SURGE AMONG MSM

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED disease. Ooo, doesn't that sound exciting?

Usually, when you start talking about STDs, people turn the page, turn down the volume, or leave the room altogether. They don't want to hear about it, or don't think it affects them.

They think, "I'm not dirty, poor, or a tramp, so I don't have to worry about *the clap*, *the drip*, or the dreaded *Curse of Venus*."

You might believe you're too smart, too safe, or too classy to avoid STDs, but remember: Bacteria and viruses, unlike most of the rest of the world, do not discriminate. Syphilis doesn't care how fabulous you are.

New research from Minnesota health officials proves it. A new report in April details an alarming rise in the number of reportable sexually transmitted diseases in the state, especially among men who have sex with men (MSM).

Cases of syphilis, for example, are at a 30-year high in the state, up a troubling 62 percent from 2009.

Of those cases, almost 90 percent occurred in MSM. Two-thirds were reported in men living in urban areas. The mean age was about 35, although the age group most affected included men 40 to 44. Two-thirds of the cases occurred in white men, but African-American men accounted for a disproportionate 23 percent.

Perhaps most troubling is that

of MSM diagnosed with early syphilis cases, a whopping 57 percent also were infected with HIV.

The report includes the caveat that, of the diagnosed syphilis cases among MSM interviewed by researchers, the most-commonly-reported risk factors included meeting partners on the Internet, anonymous sex, and no condom use.

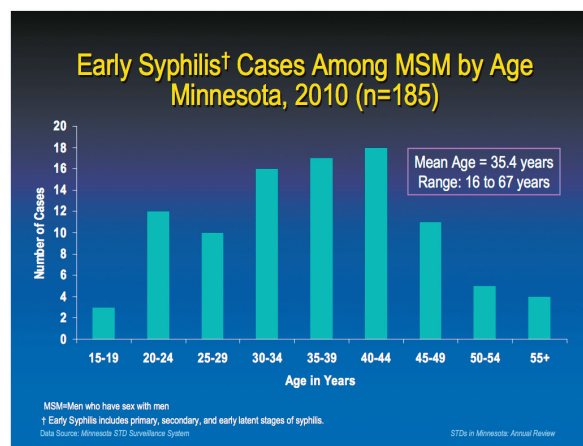
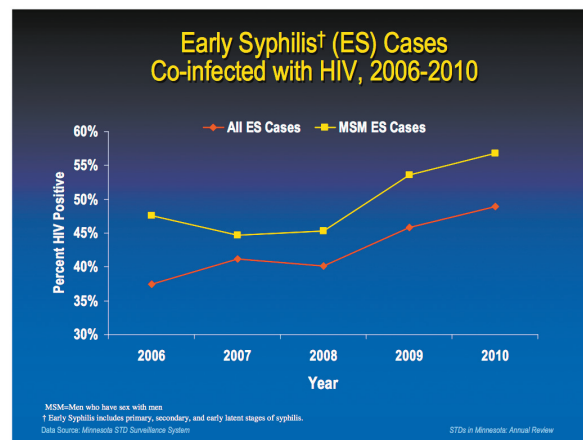
While any case of syphilis is one too many, I find it particularly disturbing that the majority of new cases of syphilis were reported in urban-dwelling men 35 to 44—who should know better. I say "know better" because they came of age, as I did, during the AIDS crisis. They're men you'd think would not be engaging in unsafe sex.

Sadly, as this latest report shows, "knowing better" isn't enough. Very likely, the urgency and importance of practicing safe sex, along with the unsavory consequences of STDs, dim over time.

Perhaps, in addition to improving comprehensive sexual health education for young people, we should start creating opportunities for older men in our community to get a refresher course.

What kind of legacy are we leaving for future generations if we fail to heed the lessons we learned at such a devastating cost?

For more information on the study and STDs in general, visit <http://www.health.state.mn.us/std>. ■



Printed with permission from *Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Surveillance Report, 2010*, published by the Minnesota Department of Health STD Surveillance System (<http://health.state.mn.us/std>).



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# Three Theaters Coproduce *In the Brown and Red Water*

Lorca's *Yerma* and Yoruban folklore inspired this first installment of a trilogy.

WHEN TARELL ALVIN McCraney's *Brother/Sister Plays* trilogy opened at New York's esteemed Public Theater a year-and-a-half ago, *The New York Times*'s chief theater critic, Ben Brantley, compared the 30-year-old to Eugene O'Neill and Sam Shepard.

McCraney currently is RSC/Warwick International Playwright in Residence at the world's most-prestigious theater, the Royal Shakespeare Company.

GLBT audiences know McCraney for *Wig Out!*, a play about Harlem drag queens.

Inspired by Spanish-gay-playwright Federico Garcia Lorca's *Yerma*, as well as Yoruban folklore from West Africa, the first installment of McCraney's trilogy, *In the Red and Brown Water*, is presented by the Guthrie as a coproduction with Pillsbury House Theatre and Mount Curve Company. Christiana Clark stars as Oya, a contemporary manifestation of *Yerma*. Marion McClinton directs.

According to McCraney, Lorca's portrait of *Yerma* is about "a woman's journey in a community bent against her."

McCraney calls it "staggering and archetypal in its scale, and yet there is something so modern, frighteningly. It stuns me. Here is a woman who wants, yearns, and has passion. And the world around her says, 'Nope—you, especially a woman, cannot have that.'"

Like many openly-gay men, McCraney obviously sympathizes with women's oppression, yet he still does not like to be pigeonholed regarding his gayness.

When I asked McCraney about growing up black and gay in the South, he countered, "I can barely earnestly speak to being Tarell in the South. And to that, I would say, '[It] was and is a beautiful, strange, and sometimes hard time.' It's hard to ascribe to my life moments that happened just because I was gay, or just because I was black, or even when you mix the two. There was always something else, as there always is."

"There were plenty of gay and black young men growing up the same time I was.



Tarell Alvin McCraney. Photo Courtesy of Guthrie Theater.

Why didn't they get the same treatment? Why didn't their parents react the same way? Well, because they aren't me. And though we have similarities, my path is all my own. That's how growing up affected my writing. [Choreographer] Alvin Ailey said the only new thing you can bring to art is you. So, I try to bring authentic me to the table: many portions of myself; pieces of me that I have never seen."

McCraney, who was an assistant to the

late master-playwright August Wilson, shares, "Mr. Wilson, more than anything, taught me that artists must build a life of compassion." ■

## ***In the Brown and Red Water***

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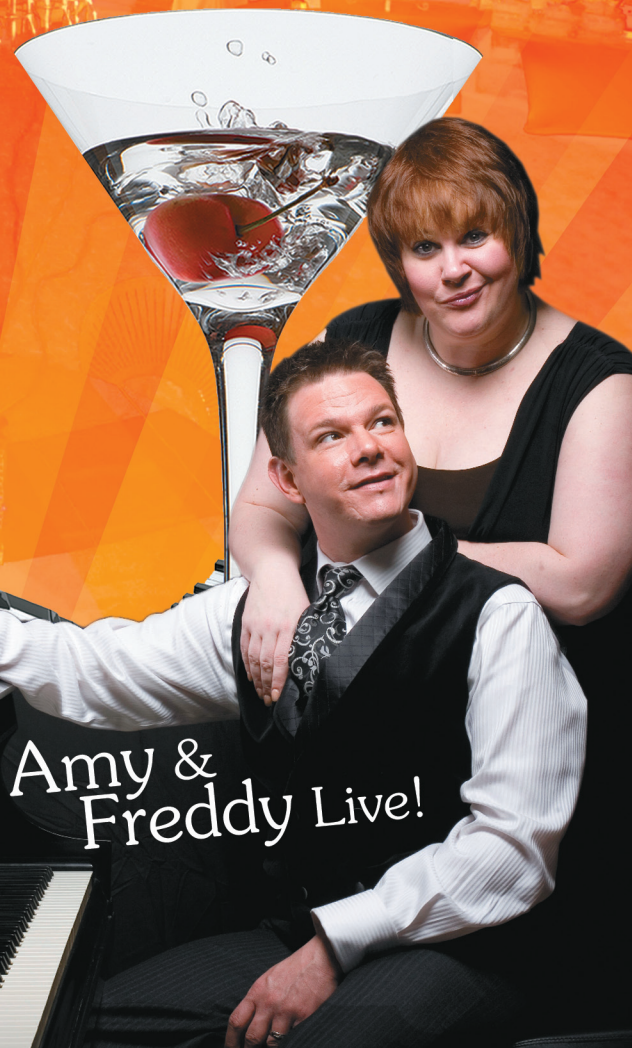
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*The Year of Magical Thinking.* Photo by Liz Neerland

***The Year of Magical Thinking*** — Grimly poetic cultural observer bares soul! The piercingly-existential Joan Didion is a towering essayist and novelist, but she recently conquered the stage with a solo drama based on her wrenching memoir of grief and loss. At nimbus theatre's new space, Barbara Berlovitz plays Didion. Director Liz Neerland explains, "A lot of the beauty in this show comes from that fact—that it is straightforward and simple, and not trying to be something bigger than it is." **Through May 21 • 1517 Central Ave. NE, Mpls • (612) 548-1380 • [www.nimbustheatre.com](http://www.nimbustheatre.com)**



*The Sexy Librarian.* Photo Courtesy of Minneapolis Theater Garage

***The Sexy Librarian*** — Comedy writer-lyricist Joseph Scrimshaw muses on Jekyll and Hyde to reflect what he calls "attractive and desirable about other people, the dichotomy between body and soul. Can we truly look past appearances?" Rock composer Mike Hallenbeck notes, "There's a lot of messy, wanton desire cut loose in the show, and Joseph wanted music that could express that. So, we've left the rough edges on to help deliver a raw emotional intensity." Adorably-sexy Anna Sundberg stars. **Through May 21 • Minneapolis Theater Garage • 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 280-9210 • [www.jokingenvelope.com](http://www.jokingenvelope.com)**

***The Gospel According to Jerry*** — Hayley Finn, director of Richard Krevolin and Irwin Kula's acclaimed new interfaith play, shares, "Through the rehearsal process, singing became a point of spiritual connection for the characters. Nia [Greta Oglesby], an African-American choir director, inspires Jerry [Ryan Lindberg], a rabbi, through her gospel songs. Jerry brings Nia to his temple to sing the Mourner's Kadish. Song in religious services plays a key role in bringing these two people from different backgrounds together." **Through May 8 • Hillcrest Center • 1978 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul • (651) 647-4315 • [www.minnesotajewishtheatre.org](http://www.minnesotajewishtheatre.org)**



*The Gospel According to Jerry.* Photo by Sarah Whiting

***Arms and the Man*** — We know that women's images and behaviors often are mediated by male fantasies. But the opposite also holds, as countless females demand the Prince Charming fantasy. George Bernard Shaw's comedy *Arms and the Man* reveals the brainwash beneath that delusion. Jim Lichtscheidl gives a transformational performance as a soldier on the run. His raw vulnerability is contrasted strikingly by Marika Nakasone, a teenager born to wealth and clout who arrogantly projects upon him a classic romantic female-fantasy stereotype. **Through May 8 • Guthrie Theater • 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. • (612) 377-2224 • [www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)** ➔



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[ ART ]



*I Follow Mother*. Painting by André Salvadore

**Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association** (NEMEA)'s Art-A-Whirl has become the largest open studio and gallery tour in the United States.

This year, the NEMEA Board selected a work by out-gay-artist André Salvadore for the cover of the event's catalog and for ads, as well as to flank the Ritz Theatre marquee. Titled *I Follow Mother*, this painting draws from his love of Hitchcock-style 1950s cinema, as well as childhood memories of walking behind his mother in Palermo, Italy, in the same decade.

Salvadore shares, "As a gay man I have had the insight to think outside the box. I have never been interested in painting things that don't interest me personally. My early work reflected my love of carnival art and expressionistic styles in poster art that I saw plastered on walls in Italy, where I was raised until the age of 9. My current work is about my love of midcentury American film, which I think greatly influenced gay culture in every way—in our humor, style, and camp."

You may have seen Salvadore's work at Wilde Roast Café. Several of his works will be part of Art-A-Whirl at Studio Number 392 in the Northrup King Building.

When you stroll through Art-A-Whirl's various galleries and studios, also consider other artists who reflect GLBT identity and interests. Be fascinated by the ambiguous sexuality of Caitlin Karolczak. See Mike Welton's vibrant *Urban Extracts*, which reflect urban architecture up close. Meditate to Gail Wallinga's nature-inspired paintings. Be dazzled by the dynamism of Rachel Rodenborg's mosaics. **May 20-22 • Various Northeast Mpls. Venues • [www.nemaa.org](http://www.nemaa.org)**

[ Theater ]



*Next to Normal*. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

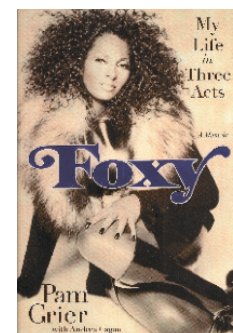
***Next to Normal***—When *Next to Normal* won its Prize for Drama, the Pulitzer Board called it "a powerful rock musical that grapples with mental illness in a suburban family, and expands the scope of subject matter for musicals." Composer Tom Kitt says he has learned "that mental illness touches everybody, and is a lifelong struggle when dealing with it. It's opened my eyes to realities, and has made me appreciate the doctors and patients on the frontlines." Citing inspirations like Billy Joel and U2, the Pulitzer-winner describes his score as having a "dark rock feel and a celebratory rock feel."

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[ Film ]

**Twin Cities Black Film Festival Promo Features Pam Grier**—The Goddess Supreme of the Blaxploitation film phenomenon of the 1970s comes to Minneapolis to promote the Twin Cities Black Film Festival to be held in September.

The Radisson Plaza and CoverGirl® host Pam Grier, along with a screening of her cult film *Foxy Brown*, plus a "Groovy '70s Party." In films like *The Big Dollhouse*, *Coffy*, and *Foxy Brown*, she defiantly countered Hollywood's tradition of subservient black women, and became the first African-American actress to carry action films. Blaxploitation has been controversial within communities of color, just as sissified film representations of gay men divide opinions among GLBT people. **May 14 • Radisson Plaza Hotel • 35 S. 7th St., Mpls. • [www.tcbff.com.org](http://www.tcbff.com.org)**



*Foxy*. Courtesy of the Twin Cities Black Film Festival





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## HIT PARADE 2: CENSORED!

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011 - 7:30 P.M.

SUNDIN MUSIC HALL, HAMLINE UNIVERSITY  
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Celebrating Joseph Schlefke's last concert as music director, the MPO will feature three 'hits' that have experienced censorship but survived to see the light of day.

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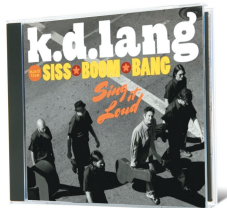
### *The Family Sign* **Atmosphere**

The first sound you hear on the latest Atmosphere disc is a slightly out-of-tune piano playing a quick downer melody. It's a mood that serves this collection from beginning to end, as vocalist Slug has plenty of heavy ideas on his mind, while partner Ant, along with new members, keyboardist Erick Anderson and guitarist Nate Collis, deepen and darken the sound throughout. Anderson especially gives the album a classic vibe—part Booker T, part Steppenwolf—that really drives the music in a fresh way. Along with his usual straightforward tales of modern life and relationships come bits that delve a little deeper, such as “Became,” which spins a fantastical story to delve into separation and the loss of a lover.



### *Femme Fatale* **BRITNEY SPEARS**

Don't call it a comeback, because her last album sold millions of copies. Think of it as a codification of Spears's career revival. How impressive that is depends on what you've thought of the artist since the beginning. She has been a plastic pop star from the very start, and it works best when she stays in that mold. So, the album has a few fun moments. Eventually, the robo-pop wears thin, and all the production in the world can't hide just how thin Spears's voice is. No matter how hard she tries, she is no Madonna. Spears is under a lot of pressure from other hot women pop stars. It may be time for a true comeback.



### *Sing It Loud* **K.D. LANG AND THE SISS BOOM BANG**

Country troubadour Lang mixes it up with a classy group of rock, soul, and country musicians for a deep, brooding, and absolutely-engaging collection of tunes. Mainly penned by the singer herself, the 10 songs here showcase her still-impressive pipes, while the deep, full production makes for a perfect antidote to the all-too-synthetic pop sound. Lang and the band are comfortable cutting across genres, from the Neil Young-like “Sugar Buzz” to the grand sweep of “Perfect World.” A cover of the Talking Heads's “Heaven” paints a perfect musical picture of a late night in the bar of the eternal reward.



### *Safari Disco Club* **YELLE**

Ah, nothing's like French electro-pop, where disco beats merge with continental concerns, and a soft-voiced leader in a leopard-pattern skin-tight outfit sings lyrics rendered completely useless, unless you speak her native tongue. On the trio's second album, Yelle craft a bouncy 11-track collection, full of New-Order-like backbeats, twisting and turning synth lines, with one of the most engaging voices in modern dance pop. It isn't just simple pop, however. Yelle takes cues from recent substyles, and then mixes it into a fat sound that would be at home in clubs over the past three decades. Yelle plays First Avenue on May 7. ■



Music and Lyrics by  
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### MINNESOTA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PRESENTS *HIT PARADE 2: CENSORED!*



On May 14, the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra's Spring Concert features three "hits" that have experienced some type of public censorship, but survived to see the light of day.

- **Wolfgang Mozart's "Overture" to *The Marriage of Figaro*.** This opera was based on the Pierre Beaumarchais play of the same name, which was banned in Vienna because of the satiric way it depicted the aristocracy.

- **Felix Mendelssohn's *Concerto for Violin in E minor, Op. 64*.** Vicious German anti-Semitism, which began as early as 1850, and lasted through the Nazi regime, was responsible for the denigration and eventual banning of many of Mendelssohn's ingenious works.

- **Dmitri Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 9 in E-flat Major, Op. 70*.** Shostakovich was no stranger to harsh Soviet criticism and threats on his life. The central censorship board banned his *Ninth Symphony* three years after it was written.

The concert features Assistant Concertmaster Clarice Purdy as solo violinist for Mendelssohn's *Concerto for Violin in E minor*.

As well, the concert is the orchestra's last under the baton of Joseph Schlefke, who has been its Music Director and Conductor since 2001. □

#### ***Hit Parade 2: Censored!***

May 14

Sundin Music Hall  
Hamline University  
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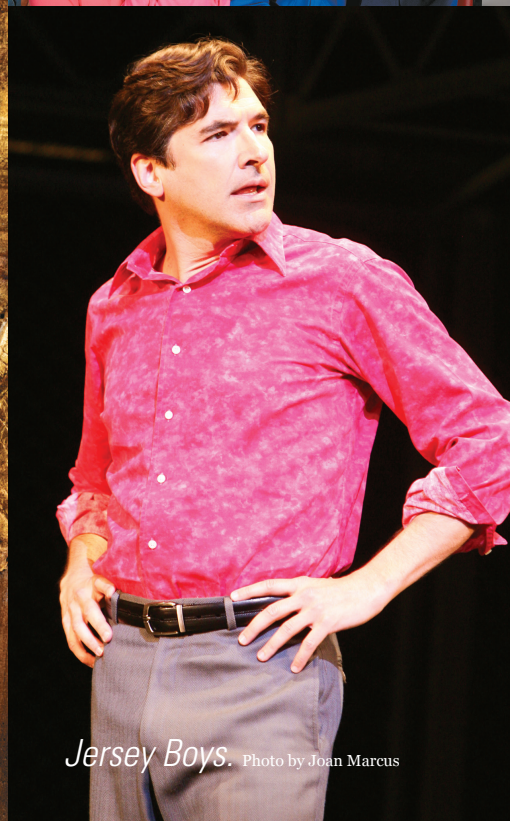
MAY

CALENDAR

*Tutankhamun.* Photo by Sandro Vannini



*Avenue Q.* Photo by Rich Ryan



*Jersey Boys.* Photo by Joan Marcus

Note: This calendar includes events formerly in the Bar Calendar.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 5

**Ellis Spring Concert.** 7:30 PM. Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. <www.ellis-music.com>.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 6

**Man of La Mancha.** Through May 8. Ten Thousand Things @ Minnesota Opera Center, 620 N. 1st St., Mpls. (800) 838-3006. <www.tenthousandthings.org>.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 7

**Cabaret of the Senses.** Benefits PFund Foundation. 7-11 PM. Guthrie Theater, Level 9, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 870-1806. <www.PFundOnline.org>.

**Babylon.** The Main Club, 1217 Tower Ave., Superior, WI. (715) 392-1756. <www.themain.com>.

**Lip Service.** 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 10

**Next to Normal.** Through May 22. Ordway Center, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <www.ordway.org>.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 12

**In the Brown and Red Water.** Through June 4. Guthrie Dowling Studio, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <www.guthrietheater.org>.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 13

**YOLO.** 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

**Opus.** Through May 29. Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul. (651) 291-7005. <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 14

**Twin Cities Black Film Festival Promo.** 7 PM. Radisson Plaza Hotel, 35 S. 7th St., Mpls. <www.tcbff.com>.

**Hit Parade 2: Censored!** 7:30 PM. Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra @ Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul. (612) 656-5676. <www.mnphil.org>.

**North Star Gay Rodeo Association Dance.** 8 PM. James Ballentine VFW, 2916 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. <www.nsga.org>.

**TNT Show.** 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

#### SUNDAY, MAY 15

**Minnesota AIDS Walk.** 9 AM. Minnehaha Park, Mpls. <www.mnaidswalk.org>.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 20

**Art-A-Whirl.** May 20, 5-10 PM. May 21, Noon-8 PM. May 22, Noon-5 PM. Various Northeast Mpls. Venues. <www.nemaa.org>.

**Secret Love.** 8 PM. Through May 21. Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus: Out-Loud! @ Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE, Mpls. (612) 436-1129. <www.ritzdolls.com>.

**Dragged Out.** 9:30 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

**Foam Party.** Gay 90's. 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-7755. <www.gay90s.com>.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 21

**Jessie Chandler & Lori L. Lake.** 2 PM. True Colors Bookstore, 4755 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. <www.jessiechandler.com>. <www.lorillake.com>.





*Jeffrey.* Photo by Mike Hnida



*The Marvelous Wondrettes.* Photo by Paul Nixdorf



*Next Fall.* Photo by Rich Ryan

#### ONGOING

**Anatomy of Gray.** Through May 22. Theatre in the Round Players, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-3010. <www.TheatreintheRound.org>.

**Arms and the Man.** Through May 8. Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <www.guthrietheater.org>.

**Avenue Q.** Through May 29. Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St., Mpls. (612) 338-6131. <www.mixedblood.com>.

**Dinner with the Tsars: Imperial Russian Porcelain.** Through Aug. 7. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <www.tmora.org>.

**The Gospel According to Jerry.** Through May 8. Hillcrest Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul. (651) 647-4315. <www.minnesotajewishtheatre.org>

**I Wish You Love.** Through May 22. Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St., St. Paul. (651) 224-3180. <www.penumbra theatre.org>.

**Jeffrey.** Through May 7. Brazen Theatre @ Lowry Lab, 350 St. Peter St., St. Paul. (612) 991-8729 <www.brazentheatre.org>.

**Jersey Boys.** Through May 8. Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (800) 982-2787. <www.hennepintheatretrust.org>.

**The Marvelous Wondrettes.** Through July 24. Plymouth Playhouse, 2705 Annapolis Ln. N., Plymouth. (763) 553-1600. <www.plymouthplayhouse.com>.

**Next Fall.** Through May 22. Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-7063. <www.jungletheater.com>.

**The Sexy Librarian.** Through May 21. Minneapolis Theater Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. (612) 280-9210. <www.jokingenvelope.com>.

**Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art.** Through Sept 15. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <www.tmora.org>.

**Three Viewings.** Through May 14. Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.illusiontheater.org>.

**Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs.** Through Sept. 5. Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. (651) 221-9444. <www.smm.org>.

**The Whiz: Moneyapolis.** Through May 8. Northrop Dance & Bedlam Theatre @ Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 625-6600. <northrop.umn.edu>.

**The Year of Magical Thinking.** Through May 21. 1517 Central Ave. NE, Mpls. (612) 548-1380. <www.nimbustheatre.com>.



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# MARLA'S CARIBBEAN CUISINE

Patrons return often to enjoy their favorite dishes at this authentic Trinidad restaurant.

Marla Jadoonanan and her husband, Ian, tried their damndest to explain the intricacies of Trinidad and Tobago cuisine. At a strange intersection of Latin, French, Middle Eastern, African, and Asian, but also heavily influenced by Indian cuisine, the island nation has invented a curry all its own. Words like “fruity” and “fragrant” were tossed about, along with a more definite “spicy.” Despite the assertive flavors that make their way into any of Marla’s dishes, they also have a lightness that one doesn’t find in traditional Indian food.



The restaurant is a family effort, with all the friendliness and quirkiness that comes with it. The interior decor is casual, its patrons are loyal, and the portions are astronomical.

A devoted patron one table over insisted that we try the Ginger Beer (\$2.99)—a British invention, originally fermented, that quickly became popular in the former island colonies. We used it to wash down our Doubles (\$2), a traditional street food featuring curried beans tucked between two pieces of fried bread. Ours arrived wrapped in aluminum foil, which was very helpful in keeping the ingredients from spilling out the back and sides with each bite. They may be green, squishy, and wrapped in foil, but our Doubles were absolutely delicious to the point of addiction.

Many local eateries offering jerk don't marinate chicken in the seasoning, but only dab it on during the cooking process. But authentic jerk chicken requires the spices to penetrate more deeply into the meat. The result is spicy and smoky, but without overpowering the flavor of the chicken. In fact, this delicate balance was maintained with ev-



ery dish that came out of Marla's kitchen—no small feat, considering the assertiveness of island spices. Even the Red Beans and Rice was remarkably robust.

Many of these dishes, such as Callaloo, also serve as handy fillings for West Indian Roti—soft, unleavened flat breads that can be rolled up like a burrito. Just as I was contemplating doing so with the last bit of empty stomach space I had left, however, Marla recommended that I try the child-friendly Brown Down (\$10) with chicken. Its tangy, somewhat sweet broth, begun with caramelized sugar, traditionally is served over rice.

A close-up photograph of a plate of traditional Jamaican jerk chicken. The chicken is cooked in a dark, spicy sauce and is served alongside a bed of brown rice and peas. The dish is garnished with fresh ingredients, including two slices of red tomato, a sprig of fresh cilantro, and a whole red jerk pepper. The plate is white with a green and yellow border, and the background is a solid red color.



**Marla's Caribbean Cuisine**  
3761 Bloomington Ave. S., Mpls.  
(612) 724-3088  
[www.marlascuisine.com](http://www.marlascuisine.com)



## [ OUT ON THE TOWN **FOOD BITES** ]

### [ **LYN-LAKE EATERIES** ] by Carla Waldemar

Park once, eat globally. No passport needed, and not much damage to your credit card. That's the draw of Lyn-Lake in Minneapolis, a once-dingy-to-outright-dicey crossroad, now reclaimed by avant arts, retail, and dining ops, from fine to funky.



↓ **FALAFEL KING**, a longtime anchor of the crossroad, reigns as monarch of that Middle Eastern favorite. Domas and pita sandwiches, too, but no booze.

**FUJI-YA** successfully melds demographics by offering sublime sushi at its raw seafood bar, while ushering more sedate diners to lounge on the backroom's tatami mats to enjoy tempura and teriyaki treats.

**GALACTIC:** Can't last a day without pizza? We hear you, so we steer you to this establishment with decor in comic-book colors, and proudly organic local provender piled atop its pies. Live entertainment consists of delivery bikers in superhero costumes.

**HEIDI'S** shines as the new site showcasing the beyond-tasty fare of creative-culinary-genius Stewart Woodman, and just-as-out-there pastries

of his wife, Heidi, from the open kitchen facing the classy cocktail bar.

**HERKIMER'S** brews its own beer: Need we say more? Putting pub-crawling to a halt (who'd want to leave those deep, dark booths?), the resident spigot-meisters are happy to side those foaming pints with pretty tasty burgers, too.

**IT'S GREEK TO ME** is the granddaddy of this intersection, a taverna

where extended families of Greek heritage convene to celebrate, joined by the neoartists of the 'hood who've learned to yelp "Opa!" with the best of 'em. Lamb rules, from kebabs to dill-sauced shank.

**MOTO-I**, the city's first and only sake brewery, is owned by the brewing guru behind Herkimer's. Samplers are the way to go, sided with Asian street fare like dumplings, potstickers, and other finger fare.

**RISOTTO**, marketing Northern Italy's claim to culinary fame, serves this glorified rice specialty in several renditions—seafood to veggie and more—along with a few more nods to the homeland's fare and a primo wine list.

**SZECHUAN SPICE** represents the best and brightest of the site's Asian occupants to date. Heed your server's prompting when he suggests the juicy buns,



moto-i. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

which (be forewarned) require dexterity, or a big bib. Follow up with the fab scallion pancakes.

**THE EGG & I**, for those who've partied all night, and crave a breakfast nosh before hitting the pillow, is at your service. It offers fruit cups for the fastidious, plus that famous, fully-loaded kamikaze pancake for those of more forgiving habits, along with refills of joe and chatter from the kindly waitstaff. □



Fuji-Ya. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



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**YOU** 6'0" or 6'4", blond hair, blue eyes. Or maybe you were under 6'. Oh, you were brunette. Wait, I don't think you had hair. I met you at a house party.

**ME** Charming Southern boy who lives in Uptown. No, not *drawl* Southern. More like *Steel Magnolias*-Southern. I probably made fun of myself for wearing man-granny panties (manties?). I promise my other underwear is cute.

**YOU** Said Minneapolis sucked.

**ME** Wanted to throw my drink at you the moment I met you. No, I don't mean just the liquid in my drink. I mean all of it. Cup, straw, the whole shebang.

**YOU** Brought homemade guacamole to the party, but left your social skills at home.

**ME** Tried to be civil to you, but you were just too annoying. The Minneapolis thing really did it in. If you don't like where you live, move.

**YOU** Pretended you were a rock star, but just because it says so on the energy drink in your hand doesn't mean it's true.

**ME** Wondering why I'm giving you this attention.

**YOU** Rattled off reasons you hate Minneapolis. Granted, I asked you to elaborate on why, but your opinions lost credibility when you entered a room full of strangers screaming "Holy F\*\*\*\*ing S\*\*\*! I just got \_\_\_\_\_! It was so hot! I mean, I just got \_\_\_\_\_!!!" (Blanks stand for wildly-inappropriate, sexual, and egotistical phrases, or otherwise-shocking remarks made in a desperate attempt for attention and/or further validation that you're an expert orator.)

**ME** Wanted to dig my car keys into my eyes and ears. The act would have been less painful than listening to you brag about how much money your family has.

**YOU** Have a lot of money, but can't afford to move away?

**ME** Just threw up in my mouth a little after reliving this.

**YOU** Did not make good guacamole. ■



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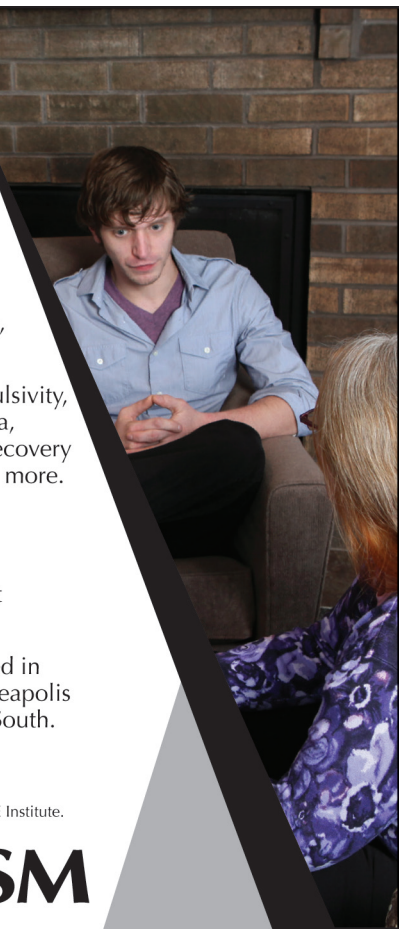
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# YOUR WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

Before the era of the drive-thru, wayside stops served a basic need. Signs pointing out picnic spots (with restrooms!) dotted the highways. They invited families to their grassy parks with barbecues and benches. Sit, enjoy a meal, stretch your legs, and throw the ball. Road trips became more bearable with a half-hour out of the car and a tasty sandwich from a picnic basket. Wayside stops still exist, often framing fantastic views, awaiting your arrival on your next road adventure.

**Equipment** is crucial. We've all envied Dorothy's gingham-lined wicker basket. These things *are* still available, and quite readily if you know where to look. Here are some of our options:

- **Hamper** The ultimate in al fresco accessories, it is more of a portable kitchen. It allows you the opportunity to carry a full meal and even cook on the go.

- **Picnic Case** Easy to carry, and perfect for a light meal, it can accommodate the fixings for up to six people.

- **Backpack** Light and portable, it is a hiker's dream. Serves two to four people.

- **Basket** The classic accessory, it comes in many forms. Think ease of use and multiple uses.

**Weight** also must be considered. Will you be walking some distance from the parking area to your destination? I love sterling silver and bone china outdoors, but I don't want to carry it for miles. Many picnic containers come with a bottle chiller and wine keys, so don't forget the Côtes du Rhône Chardonnay.

A **menu** must be created with two key things in mind: preparation and spoilage. A little mayo is OK as long as it's kept ice cold. Try including packets instead. Preparing all your foods ahead of your adventure will make dining much easier. Messy foods take away from the fun. The exception to that rule is watermelon, a picnic favorite.

So, pack a basket, and find "Point B" this summer. Along the way, have a break, and eat a sandwich. The wayside rest faces an uncertain future. It's a relic of the past, like the stops on Highway 100 in Golden Valley that once were called Lilac Way. Our favorite still exists at Highways 7 and 100, with a recently refurbished beehive stove and a connection to the Cedar Lake Trail. We hope to see you there! □



**Wicker Picnic Hamper**

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A well-stocked picnic hamper for fine dining on the go. Constructed of willow with corduroy lining, this set includes hand-blown glasses, a wine duffel, dining pieces for four, cheese service, thermal mugs, and a comfy fleece blanket.



**Lady Sarah Churchill's Motor Picnic Set**  
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The ultimate in picnic nostalgia with pedigree. From our favorite antique haunt in the South, this case was a presentation piece outfitted for nobility. A 1950s mod-green-and-cream color scheme accents this pristine service for six.



**Toluca Cooler Tote for Two**  
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**Banana Leaf Picnic Basket**

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# Journeying Toward Pride

JUNE WILL BE HERE soon, and with it come both Twin Cities Pride and Minnesota Leather Pride. My usual Pride warm-up is the International Mr. Leather (IML) Contest year in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend. This year, however, I started thinking about Pride earlier than usual.

During the Creating Change conference in February in Minneapolis, I attended an all-day workshop, "Mapping Your Desire," in which each participant made a map of his or her personal sexual/erotic/romantic "desire journey." We noted significant mileposts as a way of figuring out where next we wanted our desire journey to take us.

My conclusion: I like where I've been, where I am, and where I'm going. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to say that.

Then, at the recent Leather Leadership Conference in Los Angeles, one of the keynote speakers noted the importance of pride as an antidote to shame about being different—and all that comes with it, including hiding, self-loathing, bullying behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, abusive relationships, unsafe sex, and suicide.

The following weekend, leatherwomen (and everyone who loves

them) proudly celebrated the 25th anniversary of the International Ms Leather (IMsL) Contest in San Francisco. Sara Vibes, who was named IMsL 2011, hopes to use the title to, in her words, "rip the veil off the shame surrounding sex and sexuality."

Now, in a few weeks it will be time for IML 2010, Tyler McCormick, to turn the title over to his successor.

Both the IML and IMsL weekends are loud, proud parties with no excuses and no apologies. For members of the leather/BDSM/fetish community, they are celebrations of who we are and how we love.

Every year, these events spotlight contestants from around the world who come to Chicago (IML) or San Francisco (IMsL) to stand onstage as proud leathermen and leatherwomen.

Each contestant has been on a path of overcoming shame about being different, and replacing it with pride in who he or she is.

The chance to stand onstage, and proudly say, "This is who I am," is a significant milepost on their desire journeys. At IML and IMsL, we celebrate their journeys toward pride, and each of our own journeys as well. □

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# QUAD CITIES, IOWA AND ILLINOIS

Each city offers unique attractions, plus the cuisine scene is outstanding.

IT'S ALL ABOUT the river in the Quad Cities—the quartet of river towns straddling the Mississippi where Iowa meets Illinois. Low-slung barges slouch under the iron spines of down-to-business bridges. Wailing freight trains trundle along the riverbanks, while bikers and joggers pursue tracks of their own. Old-time paddle wheelers provide excursions, and double as casinos. And summertime's jazz festivals percolate along its banks.

Each Quad City town boasts its own persona. In Illinois, Rock Island rocks as the party port, while Moline is all about John Deere. In Iowa, Bettendorf is a pretty bedroom community bordering Davenport, the largest of the four, which lays claim as the Quad's arts mecca.

Davenport's Figge Museum showcases modern artists, from Jackson Pollack and Andy Warhol to uberIowan Grant Wood. The Putnam traces the region's history, from wildlife dioramas to artifacts like homeboy Bix Beiderbecke's golden horn. The German American Heritage Museum tracks immigration from its heyday in 1848 to those escaping Nazi persecution. The Bucktown Center houses the open-to-visit studios of working artists.

The prize for quirkiness goes to the Palmer Mansion of 1879, built by the founder of Palmer Chiropractic College (after he ran away from home to join the circus, and before he bought the first radio station west of the Mississippi and hired Ronald Reagan as sports reporter). It houses Palmer's eccentric, more-is-not-nearly-enough collections, including bronze Buddhas aside a stuffed moose head; Russian Tsar Nicholas II's chess set atop furniture made from tree trunks by ex-convicts; a Taj Mahal tap-



(Clockwise from above) Shop in the historic riverfront town of LeClaire, Iowa • Take an overnight cruise on the Twilight Riverboat, LeClaire, Iowa • Take a Tour of the Isabel Bloom Production Studio, Davenport, Iowa. Photos Courtesy of the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau.







(Above) Tour the Mississippi River Distilling Company, LeClaire, Iowa. (Right) Discover national and international works of art at Figge Art Museum, Davenport, Iowa. Photos Courtesy of the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau.



estry partnering a Swiss clock carved with a life-size rabbit; and a solarium furnished like a Chinese bordello sporting ashtrays made from cats who misbehaved. Oh, and in the patio, the pool where Palmer's pet alligator resided.

The fifth town of the Quad Cities (math is not the strong suit here) is Le Claire, a vintage charmer featuring the 1850s homes of riverboat captains, now put to use as B&Bs; retail boutiques; and sweet cafés like Crane & Pelican, serving chicken dumplings from Grandma's recipe and a killer meatloaf—plus martinis built of vodka from Mississippi River Distilling Company, its new neighbor, open for tours and tastings.

Moline flaunts the famous green-and-yellow of John Deere. He moved here in 1812 to launch what's now the world's largest and most-modern combine plant. Climb aboard the lobby's \$378,000 model, with tires taller than most basketball players. It's the star of a (thankfully) motorized tour of the 28-acre plant to watch humans and robots at work. Step across the road to John Deere Pavilion to "drive" a mighty combine, or "invent" a new crop via interactive displays, then shop for your must-have feed cap or toy tractor, proving the motto true: "It's not work, it's a way of life."

Want to check out the lifestyle of that fab family? Tour the Deere-Wiman Mansion, built by John's son, Charles, in 1872, which includes a library fitted with a pipe organ, along with show-offy modern conveniences like electricity (since 1899) and a power shower with side valves for "kidney and liver spray."

Across the street stands the largest house in the Quad Cities, the Butterworth Mansion of 1892, a more formal home built by

Charles as his daughter's wedding present, and attended by a staff of 28. The ballroom's vast ceiling is covered by an 18th-Century Venetian painting. Beneath the window lies the lovely garden, inviting visitors to loll.

Back at the pavilion, head for Gianni's (Italian for John—get it?), a steak house with an Italian accent.

The legendary Logomarcino family, however, doesn't serve Italian in its eponymous café. No need: Just try to pry yourself from the counter of handmade chocolates. But if you do, venture into the backroom, dressed with vintage wooden booths and soda fountain, to be rewarded by sandwiches built on homemade rye, and sundaes cascading with lots of that premier chocolate, warm and fudgy.

Crossing over to Rock Island, Le Figaro also is easy on the palate. This genteel dining room salutes classic French favorites, from escargot and onion soup to steak with Bearnaise. Then, finish the night at a microbrewery like Davenport's Front Street, where you can sip flights composed of Mississippi Blond, a raspberry wheat beer, an IPA, and a molasses stout.

Best for last: Bix, named for jazz legend Bix Beiderbecke, serves creative, Creole-centric fare as anchor of the recently-reopened Blackhawk Hotel of 1915, which fostered bands like Guy Lombardo and Stan Kenton in its fabled Gold Room, elegantly re-

stored in a palette of white, black, and pewter throughout. Or, opt for the Beiderbecke B&B, occupying the musician's former home, with terrific river views atop the bluff. The annual jazz festival in his honor (one of many festivals in the Quad Cities) takes place August 4-7, so float on down. Bonus: All tours and museums mentioned are free.

For information, contact the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 747-7800, or visit <[www.visitquadcities.com](http://www.visitquadcities.com)>. ■

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*We were on the water all of five minutes when Mara started making pirate jokes: "Avast Mates, there be treasure ahead!" Dean took his oar like a foil and yelled: "I'll bunk with Darcy Jones before you get my gold!" It went on like this for hours; our little armada, riding the "high seas" of Door County*



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## [ BOWLING ]

Another bowling season has come and gone, but one of the local leagues capped off their season with the 26th-annual Paul Bunyan Invitational, April 21-24. This popular tournament attracts nearly 200 bowlers to the Twin Cities every spring for a fun weekend of competition, parties and mixers, and a little mayhem. Hosted by the Town House bar and the Millennium Hotel, organizers put on quite an impressive event, with tons of perks for bowlers and fans, including hundreds of dollars in raffle prizes, a hospitality suite at the Millennium with free drinks, and use of a state-of-the-art facility for tournament play itself.

The bowlers are a group of all ages and backgrounds. I had a few opportunities to bowl on a Wednesday night team a while back, and hung out with the Friday night guys recently. The great thing about bowling is the friendly competition. The scene is laid-back, and everyone has a fun time. Plus, you get to eat and drink while you play!

As we move into the mood for outdoor sporting adventure, keep the bowling leagues in mind for the fall. They always are looking for more bowlers, and all skill levels are welcome. Leagues typically bowl Wednesdays and Fridays.

## [ TWIN CITIES JACKS ]

Outdoor sports are swinging into full gear now that the snow has disappeared. Building on their sixth-place standing at the Gay Games in Cologne last year, the Twin Cities Jacks soccer club, a competitive men's organization, is prepping for another major tournament in July.

The Jacks (short for Lumberjacks) started as The Crush in 2007. They have come a long way since then, having competed in two major tournaments.

This summer, The Jacks are sending eight players to Vancouver for the OutGames tournament, the International Gay and Lesbian Association's North America Cup. The Jacks are partnering with a team from Texas, the Austin Gold Stars, to form a single team for the competition, which will be held July 25-31.

The Jacks are looking for your support, and for a few good players. They welcome all GLBT and allied players to join them, regardless of skill level.

Club runner Andy Birkey says, "We have a couple of different levels of play. We field the Jacks, which is a competitive men's team that generally competes in international tournaments. We also have coed teams in local leagues, including City Sports Connection, throughout the year. We also have 'pickup' soccer on Tuesday evenings at Nokomis Park in South Minneapolis. Those are opportunities for anyone to play, even if they've never touched a soccer ball."

For more information, visit <[www.twincitiesjacks.com](http://www.twincitiesjacks.com)>, or check them out on Facebook. □



The Jacks in Cologne, Germany, at the Gay Games last year.  
Photo Courtesy of Twin Cities Jacks



# FIRST THURSDAY/OUT AT THE MOVIES

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April 7

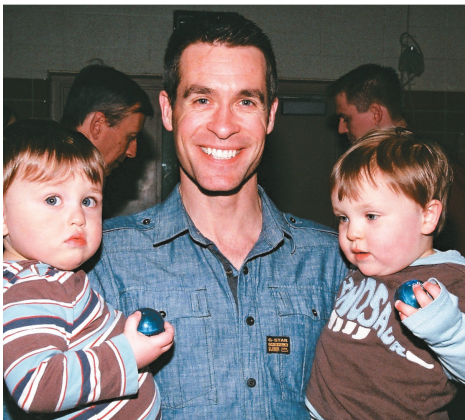




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## BUSINESS PROFILE | by Heidi Fellner



Dr. Victoria Hagstrom, MD  
Photo Courtesy of Crystal Bright Photography

## ANew AESTHETIC MEDICAL CENTER

Midwesterners may feel a little guilty about wanting to look younger, but the desire to look good always has been a natural part of being human. Our society as a whole—and more specifically the job market—rewards those who look more youthful.

Dr. Victoria Hagstrom, MD, of ANew Aesthetic Medical Center, says, “There’s nothing new about looking for the fountain of youth. There have been tonics and snake oils dating back centuries.”

What is new is that products and procedures actually work, and without the long recovery time and scarring patients experienced even 10 years ago.

Follicular Unit Extraction, for example, restores a more youthful hairline and fullness without the “doll hair” look that characterized hair-restoration efforts in the past, and without the telltale linear scar that used to be found in the “donor” area.

Additionally, a new laser procedure called photobiostimulation can be employed to augment natural hair growth, either complementing or replacing the extraction procedure entirely.

ANew Aesthetic Medical Center performs both procedures. Its client list includes WCCO announcer Denny Long, as well as patients from all over the country.

ANew assists patients who want more youthful-looking skin and facial contours. But not everyone wants the world to know they’ve had something aggressive done when it comes to their face. Here, a lighter but effective touch can make all the difference be-

tween looking fake and looking like a more-radiant, more-dynamic version of yourself.

Hagstrom declares, “That is my whole goal. I want you to come in, and have nobody ask you what you did. I want you to hear things like: ‘Wow you look great! Did you get a haircut? Lose weight? Sleep really well?’”

When it comes to skin rejuvenation, ANew has a number of options: laser treatments, botox and fillers, chemical peels, microdermabrasion, and other medical skin care products that enhance the skin’s appearance over time. Different treatments address different issues, of course, but another consideration is recovery time.

Hagstrom explains, “In general, the more aggressive the approach, the faster you want the change, the more recovery time. But most people can heal up and have improvement within one week. We use specialized camouflage posttreatment regimens that help people get back into their lives a little bit faster.”

ANew also provides less-invasive body-contouring procedures.

Initial consultations for any procedure are free. For out-of-town hair restoration patients, Hagstrom often can do an evaluation using photos.

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# Tea Party

WITH THE LUSTY month of May here, it's the season once again for afternoon garden tea parties.

I'm excited to throw my own tea party, and I'm sure everyone who came to my recent body-piercing fest, at least everyone whose wounds have healed, and who aren't participating in the class-action lawsuit, will be happy to join me. OK, so it'll be me; my friend, Jeff; the dog; and loony Aunt (You Know I Was Once A Showgirl) Ebba.

Being the self-proclaimed "Queen of Tea," I must emphasize that proper tea etiquette dictates guests be handed their tea-filled cups using a "serviette," not a common napkin. Napkins are for formal family gatherings, so Gramps can wrap his uppers in something besides his one good sock.

Of course, the bottom of your T-shirt is for picnics.

There are many other tea etiquette rules. For example, you must never, ever fill a cup more than halfway. Guests who consume too much of the caffeine-laden tea have been known to behave bizarrely, and actually ask for seconds of the cucumber finger sandwiches.

When pouring tea, ask guests if they would like cream. But do not actually use cream—only milk. This practice dates back to Queen

Victoria, who mistakenly put cream in a guest's tea. It curdled, and the guest proceeded to place a Big Ear/Bad Marriage curse on all future royals.

If a guest requests a sugar cube, the proper response is not, "Geez, we used to drop LSD on sugar cubes in the '60s," but rather, "One lump or two?" Otherwise, you run the risk of having a guest slap you silly with a cute little white glove.

Which brings us to the topic of dress. Along with gloves, recommended tea-party attire includes classic Chanel knit suits, pearls, bow-trimmed Ferragamo flats, and veiled hats.

Good idea. A disguise.

Of course, all my gay male friends already have a fabu tea party wardrobe in their closets.

Now, just between us, if you truly wish to have a tea party worth remembering—just replace the tea with bong water.

Well (shrug), consider the source here, but a good time will be had by all.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss. ■

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# The Annulment

A COUPLE OF strange things happened recently: (1) I was asked to discuss my sex life while buying a new car; and (2) My ex-husband asked me for an annulment.

Let's start with the car. Last week, I traded in my Subaru Outback for the 40-miles-per-gallon Ford Fiesta, because (1) I believe in America; (2) I believe in saving the environment; and (3) I believe in parties...errr, hence, Ford *Fiesta*.

I bought the car at the small dealership in a small town where my girlfriend and I take our cars to be serviced. So, everyone at the dealership and in town knows us, and knows that we're "deviants" (their word, not mine).

Frankly, I'd like it if we were a touch more deviant—something I plan to work on with my girlfriend this weekend.

As the sales guy and I were going over the paperwork, he suddenly looked up, and said, "I've got a question to ask you: My wife left me for another woman. Why?"

"Probably because your penis is too small," I said, hoping a joke would nip this conversation in the bud, and we could go back to letting him screw me over on the car negotiations.

Instead, his eyes flew open wide, and he said, "Oh, that wasn't it. She loved sex with

me. That's why I don't get it."

I sighed, knowing I wasn't getting out of there without talking about my own sex life. I started by explaining the Kinsey scale of sexuality, and how some people are closer to the center than others, thus attracted to both sexes.

"What about you and your girlfriend?" he asked, leaning closer. "Are you into guys?"

I sighed again. No matter what the conversation is, straight guys always manage to bring it around to whether the lesbian wants to sleep with them.

In fact, the only straight guy who didn't ask me this question was my former husband. And he should have.

I got married in my 20s. I shouldn't have done it. I knew when I got married that I preferred women to men, but kind of forgot to mention it to my husband.

He was a great guy, and didn't deserve it. I was a cad, and still am ashamed about it.

The only good thing I did in that marriage was to get out of it quickly, so that he could get on with his life. And he did. He got married a year after our divorce.

I hadn't heard from him in 15 years, until last week, when I received an e-mail asking for an annulment. Because I'm not Catholic, I know very little about this strange prac-

tice, only that you need grounds for one, unless you're a Kennedy. My ex-husband had grounds in spades.

My guess is that the Catholic Church, no great lover of gays, quickly would stamp its approval on the annulment as soon as it learned I was gay.

But here's the uncomfortable part: My ex couldn't bring himself to ask me for grounds. He hemmed and hawed (weirdly, it's possible to do so via e-mail), and danced around the subject.

I knew he easily could find the evidence he needed on the Internet. I write a syndicated column on being gay. I wrote a book about being gay. I chat about my sex life with weirdo car salesmen.

But after 15 years, I still couldn't bring myself to discuss it with my ex.

I sent him the information he requested. He'll get his annulment, and our marriage then will vanish from the spiritual record—something I've been trying to do for almost two decades, but was too cowardly to deal with.

I never thought I'd say this, but here goes: Thanks, Catholic Church! ■

*Hey! I wrote a book. You can buy Dateland on Amazon.*

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### Dear Ms Behavior:

I'm dating a new woman, Jane, who seems dogmatic. A lefty organizer, she believes that politics and peace are her religion. That's fine with me. I certainly have put in my years of working for the movement.

On our fourth date, we had a pretty unpleasant argument over idealism and war, in which I found her to be incredibly rigid. We haven't kissed yet, or even held hands. I like her, but I probably don't like her overly radical politics enough to get very serious.

Nonetheless, I feel vaguely compelled to call her, and talk about what our political differences mean. In other words, we've yet really to have a conversation about us.

Should I not call her if I'm not serious?

We might be able to pull our relationship back into a positive light if she has a sense

that she's completely off-putting in these "light" political debates.

Once, Jane told me that she felt like her politics kept her from getting involved with people. Maybe she'll be insightful, and we can have a fifth date.

What do you think? Should I give her a second chance?

—JO-JO

### Dear Jo-Jo:

If you and Jane can agree on a light comedy and Vietnamese food for your fifth date, you probably don't have to agree on a political platform as well. Unless, of course, you're the type of woman who only wants to date if it will "lead to something," and Ms. Behavior doesn't mean a revolution.

Ideally, dating is a process of getting to

know another person, not necessarily trying to figure out exactly where her furniture and politics will fit in with yours.

If you're worried about misleading Jane, based on your discomfort that your social or political views don't jive, you can talk about it.

Continued dating would be deceitful only if you pretended to want more than you really do, or to like her more than you really do.

But if your mild hope for a relationship with Jane is dependent on her sudden insight that she's "off-putting," you probably will be disappointed.

A momentary realization or even a deeper acknowledgement of a particular trait does not mean an investment in becoming a different person. It's unlikely she'll change.

If, on the other hand, you can wrap your

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mind around a lighter sort of interaction (sex for sport, for example), you still might have a good time.

In fact, if you could arrange to disentangle yourself from further romantic involvement after, say, the eighth date, it might be fun to have sex with a Marxist.

#### Dear Ms. Behavior:

My ex-lover, Jake-the-Bisexual, is married now. His wife, Miranda, is a controlling bitch who always is trying to ruin our friendship, and interfere with the business Jake and I run together. We own an antique store, which I run. He is a silent partner.

I'm forced to deal with Miranda's mettlesome, undermining behavior. Half the time, Jake and I get along fine, because we agree that she's horrible, but every once in a

while, he tries too hard to please her, and acts like a pussy-whipped jerk who is in love with her. I can't bear it when he even considers her opinion.

Jake tells me that I'm a misogynist, and that I should shut my mouth.

Don't I have a right to ask that the bitch not come shopping for antiques in our store?

I don't think I should have to put up with her. We've decided to let you decide.

—SICK OF IT

#### Dear Sick Of It:

You do sound like a misogynist, and a bitter one at that.

No one says you have to welcome Miranda, but calling her "the bitch" will not help improve this cozy little triangle.

If your attachment to Jake is contingent

on your agreement that his wife is horrible, you're not much of a friend, either.

Miranda should shop for antiques on your day off (or on eBay). And you should think about buying Jake out of the business (or vice versa), to preserve what's left of your friendship.

If you find this suggestion to be immediately objectionable, it's probably because you're invested in continuing the drama, as a way of staying connected to Jake.

And, oh, yeah, you probably should get a therapist. Try to find a female one, so that you can deal directly with your dislike of women. □

© 2011 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.

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# The Day I Died

His grandmother's voice echoes as pictures devastate a 20-year-old man.

I'm 20 years old when I see the pictures that end my life.

*It's 101 degrees outside—morbidity humid. I hear my grandmother's voice warning me about the heat.*

**PICTURE** Him. My him. With someone else. Another boy. A younger boy.

"Justin, you remember to put shoes on if you go outside, you hear?" my grandmother would say if she were here, it's so hot.

**PICTURE** His boat. He has his arm around the boy. They're smiling.

"I don't want to hear you crying about scalding your feet if you go out there with no good sense to put on shoes, you hear?" my grandmother's Southern twang echoes.

**PICTURE** His apartment. The boy is sitting on the couch where I lay with My Him, where we cuddle; where he tells me he loves me, and that I'm beautiful; where we make love; where I dream of being with him forever.

I'm 20 years old when life as I know it comes to an end.

**PICTURE** My first love, the man who promised never to break my heart, with another boy.

I'm on my bed, my laptop burning my thighs, Facebook burning my heart.

My vision blinds, and my ears sting. My whole body moves with the beating of my heart. My stomach knots with an anxiety I haven't felt since Mom died.

Suddenly, I'm choking. My lungs can't fill with enough oxygen. My room is shrinking. I have to leave my room, or I will die here.

I run out of my bedroom, out of my apartment, gasping for air. Snot runs down my face, and the tears explode.



My bare feet hit the searing hot sidewalk outside my apartment, sending blistering pain through my soles and up into my ankles, but I don't care. I need to be outside. I *have* to be outside.

I run barefoot around my apartment complex once, twice, three times. I count the number of strides I take. I don't know why. I just have to. Everything I'm doing is a must. I can't stop. I have to run. I have to count. I have to breathe. I have to wonder if it's all a dream.

No. No wondering. It *must* be a dream.

On lap 7 or 8, reality punches me in the stomach. Sudden, explosive nausea takes hold. I grab my abdomen, and fall to my knees. My knees scrape the cement.

I vomit in the middle of the sidewalk, be-

cause I can't crawl to the grass in time.

I feel lightheaded. The heat is too much. The adrenaline is waning, and my body needs to cool, but I'd rather die than reenter my apartment.

I stumble into the grass and lie there. I stare directly into the sun, and beg it to kill me.

"Justin, now what did I tell you about putting your shoes on?" my grandmother yells at me as a child when I cry because my feet are burned. "Lord have mercy," she says, as she gives me a cool bath to make it all better.

My life flashes in the blinding sun: I see him holding me after my grandmother dies. I see us traveling, at concerts, on the lake, and in his bed. I smell his cologne, and the sloppy joes I burned when I tried cooking for him. I feel his arms around me. I feel him kiss the back of my neck.

I feel...blades of grass cut into my skin like a thousand tiny razors.

I turn into a fetal position, and look at sideways apartment buildings. My heart isn't beating as fast now. I just want to go to sleep. I never want to wake up.

I'm 20 years old when the world takes my breath away, scalds my heart, cuts into my soul. I die emotionally on this day, a 20-year-old who only just has felt what being in love is really all about.

That was four years ago.

It's amazing how much you learn in so short a time—like when to put your shoes on, or when to stand up, brush yourself off, and make it home for a cool bath. ■